to start cottage industries, to make other industrial experiments, to start intensive agriculture, and having regard to our immediate needs, all legislation tending however limitedly should be to make for accumulation of property, for keeping property in the same family, for preventing disintegration, and for encouraging the consolidation of property. It is from that point of view that I would ask honourable members to deal with this item of legislation.

The motion that the Bill be read in the Assembly was put and carried.

Title of the Bill: The Travancore Disposition of Property Bill.

The motion that under Rule 51 a message recommending this Bill be sent to the other Chamber was put and carried.

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

PRODUCTION OF FOOD-STUFF IN THE STATE.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, this is not the first time that a resolution * of this kind has been brought forward for discussion on the floor of the House. If I remember correctly, the honourable member himself has been moving this resolution for the third time during the past two or three years.

Sir, Government are at one with the objective that is visualised in this resolution because they know it more than any one else, on account of the great difficulties that they have to surmount, on account of the great opposition that they have to stand against in the matter of procurement of food supplies from outside for feeding the teeming population. Therefore it will be the object of the Government to bridge the gap that now exists between the production of agricultural products within the State and the quantity that we have to import every year from outside. As I have stated on the floor of the House on more occasions than one we are deficient to the extent of about 30,000 tons of rice per month. The policy of the Government in regard to this matter has been clearly and lucidly explained by you, Sir, in the Presidential address which you gave to the members of the Assembly. I do not think it is necessary for me to recapitulate those fundamental points. I can only say that so far as Travancore is concerned the methods by which we could augment production are intensive cultivation and extensive cultivation and what is required more than any thing else at

* The resolution which runs as follows, was moved by Mr. K. P. Koohukora Tharakan on the 26th January 1943:

Production of food materials in the State.

1. MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN (*Kunnatnad cum Parur*): This Assembly recommends to Government that necessary steps be immediately taken by them to produce as far as possible in Travancore itself all the food materials like paddy required for consumption in the State, in view of the present difficulties to obtain them in sufficient quantities from outside.

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[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar.]

this juncture for intensifying the production of agricultural products in this country is by manuring. I can at once say that the question of solving the manure problem is now engaging the careful attention of Government. I want to take this opportunity to impress upon the members of this House the fundamental necessity and the supreme importance of carrying on the process of compost-making from one part of the country to the other. We are now faced with a shortage of artificial fertilisers. Amonium sulphate is now not available at all. Amonium phosphate and various brands of phosphates have become things of the past. It is therefore of the greatest import that steps should be taken to conserve the manures that we produce in the country and quite rightly Government have prohibited the export of oil-cakes, fish, refuse, bones and other kinds of fertilisers. I am glad to be able to announce to the members of this House that negotiations are in progress for the manufacture of fertilisers. It is a question which is engaging the attention of the Government and one or two important concerns have come forward with proposals for the manufacture of bicarbonate and cyanide. All that is required is plenty of lime for which we have no dearth, so that it is expected that within a reasonable period of time the manufacture of cyanide at a moderate cost will be an accomplished fact. But it is necessary that all the materials available in the country must be made into compost. Government also made a strong appeal to the Municipality to conserve every bit of human and animal filth and convert it into compost and unless they are very keen on the matter Government may have to take steps to go on with the process themselves I wish to inform the members of this House that the various departments have come forward to our help. The collection of silt at the banks of the rivers has been expanded. The green manure in the forest reserves are now made available to the department at a moderate surcharge of four cash per head load. The Conservator of Forests has also placed at the disposal of this department the leaf-mould in the forest. Government are also giving a substantial grant for extensive cultivation. During the past year our efforts of bringing under actual cultivation seven or eight thousand acres of land, have been a success, in spite of the fact that we were confronted with untimely floods. And it will be the endeavour of this Government to pursue the policy of bringing more and more land under cultivation. The extension of the Lift Irrigation Scheme in north Travancore whereby in the fields where one crop is raised now it will be possible to raise double crop, and it is estimated that at least 10 to 20 thousand paras may be additionally raised next year. The system of raising the alternative crop when the field lies fallow is being attempted. This crop which does not require very great technical skill or culture could be grown all over the country and the result will be that there will be a production of 150 to 250 thousand tons of these tubers.

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The Department of Agriculture is doing its maximum work in these directions and are carrying on experiments regarding cultivation of crops in between two crops of paddy. Government have adopted, what may be called "Grow more Food" campaign. The vigorus policy that will be pursued in this direction has been very clearly enunciated by you, Sir. The endeavour will be in every instance to grow two blades of grass where one has grown. The production of food-materials is reinforced by the importation of food-materials from outside and an equitable distribution is made by the sound method of rationing, which is the only method known for distributing commodities which are short of supply. I, therefore want to assure the honourable member and those who spoke on the resolution that the various points urged have been always kept in mind and that Government are extremely anxious to realise the objective envisaged by the resolution. In view of this statement, I hope that the honourable member will not press the resolution.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether it is the policy to encourage sugarcane and tobacco cultivation in places where paddy could be grown.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: That is a matter of opinion. Sugar is required in the State and it is very necessary to raise as much of jaggery as possible.

PRESIDENT: Before calling upon the mover, there are two or three points which, on account of the exigencies of time, were not made clear in my previous remarks and on which I want to dwell now. The last question propounded by Mr. Narayana Pillai has made it very necessary that the policy of the Government should be clearly understood. I entirely agree with what has fallen from Mr. Narayana Aiyar, with regard to intensive and extensive cultivation. In fact I am more emphatic in my point, now that I have learned from documents, which came into my possession, not many weeks ago, that England, which produced less than 1/3 of its food-stuffs before this war, *i. e.*, before 1939, has produced this year two-thirds of its food-stuffs. That is a matter of great encouragement for other countries. There are certain natural difficulties which exist in Travancore and which cannot be lost sight of. That is the area of swampy or semi-swampy lands, and of hill-ranges. Taking everything into account, it is a matter of doubt whether at any time we can grow all our food. It is possible that by the exercise of great care and great zeal we may grow instead of 40 per cent. something like 60 or even 65 per cent. of our food. Having regard to the pace at which population is increasing, there would, I think, be the need for us to get the balance from outside. The task of the Government should therefore be to reconcile the two ideas. I think the method of reconciliation is to grow such crops as are valuable crops in order that you may buy food and other people may be forced to sell their food-stuffs to you. And that is the only justification for the growth of crops like mulberry, cotton, tobacco and sugarcane. Supposing we take a particular plot of land,

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[President.]

which is good for the cultivation of either paddy or sugarcane. The question before the owner or the Government will be, which is better. There is no doubt that on account of researches that have been done in the matter of cultivation of sugarcane, India now produces, and Travancore can produce sugarcane equal to the best that can be produced elsewhere. Sugarcane fetches a price out of all proportion to the price of paddy. Even more conspicuous is the price of tobacco, or however much you condemn tobacco, humanity, I am afraid, is proceeding in the direction of consuming more of tobacco. At the same time Government will have to take the greatest possible care to see that tea, or rubber or cardamom and what may be called 'luxury products' are not encouraged to such an extent that the actual production of paddy suffers. It is therefore a matter of reconciliation, and Government from time to time will have to take stock of the situation year after year and see how far they can purchase paddy from the neighbouring districts or localities. If, however, we cannot get adequate food-stuffs, it is our duty to concentrate on paddy. It is the fervent intention of Government to bring into existence, at whatever cost, really good fertiliser factories in Travancore, which will enable the growth of not only paddy but other forms of vegetation. It is not an easy thing. It is difficult to get machinery, but Government are trying, and are within range of success in getting such a factory established here. That factory must necessarily have a wide range of production, because some of the fertilisers are very easily dissolved. Fertilisers, which are useful on the east coast cannot be employed here because of the rainfall. There are certain fertilisers which stick to the soil; there are some others which are washed away by the slightest rain. Considering the amount of rain, we have to choose the particular manure which will be useful in the State. This is a matter for research and investigation which is engaging the attention of Government, but honourable members may rest assured that before many months the manufacture of fertilisers on an extensive scale will be a *fait accompli*. But that does not minimise the importance of cattle manure and human refuse. The number of establishments for fermenting all these compounds has to be increased hundred-fold in this State, and unless Municipalities and even large landholders lend a hand in these enterprises, much could not be done. And so I am repeating the appeal that I have made on another public platform that the public should co-operate in this enterprise.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : ഞാൻ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻവലിക്കുന്നു.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

RESTORATION OF THE IRRIGATION DIVISION.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : Sir, I move the following resolution:- "This Assembly recommends to Government that the Irrigation Division be re-started and irrigation required for cultivation be developed."

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